

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims**

#### **Claims 1-11 (canceled)**

1           **Claim 12 (currently amended):**    A hearing device  
2    comprising:  
3           a digital signal processing unit having inputs and  
4    outputs;  
5           self-contained hardware units, peripheral with  
6    respect to said digital signal processing unit and  
7    operationally connected to said inputs and outputs of said  
8    digital signal processing unit;  
9           an identification unit in at least one of said  
10   peripheral self-contained hardware units, the  
11   identification unit having an output and containing  
12   identification information identifying said hardware unit;  
13          a storage unit remote from said hardware unit  
14   containing identification information identifying more  
15   than one hardware peripheral unit and having an output;  
16          a comparing unit remote from said hardware unit and  
17   having a first input, a second input, and an output, said  
18   output of said identification unit being operationally  
19   ~~connect~~ connected to the first input, and said output of

20 said storage unit being operationally connected to the  
21 second input and

22 a memory unit being operationally connected to the  
23 output of said comparing unit for storing the current  
24 configuration of said hearing device with respect to said  
25 peripheral self-contained hardware unit.

1 **Claim 13 (previously presented):** The device of  
2 claim 12, wherein the output of said comparing unit is  
3 operationally connected to a control input for the  
4 operation of said digital signal processing unit.

1 **Claim 14 (previously presented):** The device of  
2 claim 12, wherein said at least one of said self-contained  
3 peripheral hardware units and said digital signal  
4 processing unit is operationally connected via at least one  
5 data bus and interface unit.

1 **Claim 15 (previously presented):** The device of  
2 claim 12, further comprising an output of said device which  
3 is operationally connected to an output of said memory  
4 unit.

1 **Claim 16 (previously presented):** The device of  
2 claim 14, wherein said interface unit is one of a  
3 three-wire interface unit and a two-wire interface unit.

1           **Claim 17 (previously presented):**     The device of  
2     claim 12, further comprising at least a second of said at  
3     least one self-contained hardware peripheral units, and  
4     wherein:

5           said one of said self-contained hardware peripheral  
6     units treating audio signal components of said device and  
7     being operationally connected to said digital processing  
8     unit via a first data bus with first interface units; and  
9           said second of said self-contained hardware peripheral  
10    units treating control signals of said hearing device and  
11    being operationally connected with said digital signal  
12    processing unit via a second data bus and second interface  
13    units.

1           **Claim 18 (previously presented):**     The device of  
2     claim 12, wherein said at least one peripheral  
3     self-contained hardware unit treats audio signal components  
4     of said hearing device and is operationally connected to  
5     said digital signal processing unit via a data bus with at  
6     least three-wire interface units.

1           **Claim 19 (previously presented):**     The device of  
2     claim 12, wherein said at least one hardware peripheral  
3     self-contained hardware unit treats control signals of said  
4     hearing device and is operationally connected to said

5 digital signal processing unit via a data bus with two-wire  
6 interface units.

1       **Claim 20 (previously presented):**     The device of  
2 claim 18, wherein said three-wire interface units are I<sup>2</sup>S  
3 units.

1       **Claim 21 (previously presented):**     The device of  
2 claim 19, wherein said second interface units are I<sup>2</sup>C units.

1       **Claim 22 (previously presented):**     The device of  
2 claim 12, wherein said one self-contained hardware  
3 peripheral unit is one of a sensor, an actuator, a  
4 transceiver, a manually operable selection switch unit, and  
5 a potentiometer.

1       **Claim 23 (previously presented):**     The device of  
2 claim 15, wherein said output of said device is an output  
3 of a transceiver.

1       **Claim 24 (previously presented):**     A method for  
2 manufacturing a hearing device, comprising the steps of:  
3       providing a digital signal processing unit;  
4       providing at least one self-contained peripheral  
5 hardware unit;

6           operationally connecting said peripheral self-  
7   contained hardware unit to said digital signal processing  
8   unit; and  
9           automatically identifying said peripheral self-  
10   contained hardware unit; and  
11          storing the current hardware configuration of the  
12   hearing device with respect to said peripheral units.

1           **Claim 25 (previously presented):**   The method of  
2   claim 24, further comprising a step of selecting an  
3   operational mode of said signal processing unit as a  
4   function of said current hardware configuration.

1           **Claim 26 (previously presented):**   The method of  
2   claim 24, further comprising a step of barring an operation  
3   of said digital signal processing unit which does not  
4   conform with said current hardware configuration.

1           **Claim 27 (previously presented):**   The method of  
2   claim 24, further comprising a step of providing  
3   interpretation of signals towards and/or from said digital  
4   signal processing unit as a function of said current  
5   hardware configuration.